



**U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement**

April 7, 2006

# News Release

## **ICE comments on the break-up of a motorcycle theft and export ring**

NEW YORK -- In response to Wednesday's announcement of the break-up of a motorcycle theft and export ring by Queens District Attorney Richard A Brown, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) issued the following statement:

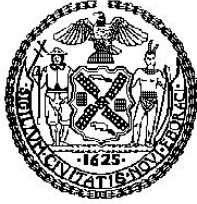
"With today's arrests, we dismantled a criminal enterprise that targeted a vulnerability which could have threatened the security of our ports and our country," said Marty Ficke, special agent-in-charge of ICE's office of investigations in New York. "The pipelines that were used by the defendants to illegally transport motorcycles, could have been used to transport money, weapons or terrorists. The security of our nation is our number one priority and ICE will continue to partner with other law enforcement agencies to that end."

ICE encourages the public to report any suspicious activity, through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

In addition to the Luis Muñoz Marin International Airport, US-VISIT exit procedures are in place at 12 airports and two seaports. Where these procedures are not available, visitors need to turn in the Form I-94 (Arrival and Departure Record) to the airline ticket agent when departing the United States. Failure to check out from US-VISIT, at airports and seaports where exit procedures are in place, could affect a visitor's ability to re-enter the country.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**MOTORCYCLE THEFT RING SMASHED IN UNDERCOVER OPERATION**

*19 Charged With Stealing 83 Motorcycles – Valued at \$600,000 – And Fencing Them Abroad*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, joined by Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly, Martin D. Ficke, the Special Agent-in-Charge of the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) New York Office, and Mark J. Mershon, Assistant Director-in-Charge of the FBI's New York City Field Office, announced today that a motorcycle theft and export ring consisting of 19 individuals – including brokers, exporters, taggers and stealers – that allegedly stole more than 83 domestic and imported motorcycles valued at more than \$600,000 from owners throughout the metropolitan area over the last eleven months has been closed down in an undercover operation.

The principal defendants have been charged in a 56-count indictment charging 62 pattern acts with, among other crimes, Enterprise Corruption under New York State's Organized Crime Control Act. They are accused of stealing scores of motorcycles – including expensive Harley Davidson, Kawasaki, Suzuki, Yamaha, Honda and KTM models – from Queens County and elsewhere in New York State and exporting them to Hungary. The motorcycles were allegedly stolen in a variety of ways, including from public streets, residential garages and, in one instance, a robbery in Queens. To date, approximately 83 stolen motorcycles have been identified.

District Attorney Brown said, "A sweeping 11-month investigation dubbed 'Operation Biker Boyz,' that utilized both court-authorized wiretaps and surveillance, has put the brakes on a sophisticated motorcycle theft ring that targeted local area motorcycle owners. The defendants are variously accused of breaking into homes and garages and stealing scores of motorcycles which were then packed into giant containers and shipped overseas to a Hungarian motorcycle shop owned by one of the defendants. The defendants are charged with more than fifteen different offenses, including enterprise corruption, criminal possession of stolen property and conspiracy. The statutory maximum sentences that these defendants face are significant and send a clear message to others who deal in stolen vehicles – cars or motorcycles – that they will be apprehended, prosecuted and severely punished. The takedown of this major criminal enterprise represents another example of the partnership that exists in this City between law enforcement at all levels of government – as well as the immense cooperation of law enforcement abroad."

Commissioner Kelly said, "The combined efforts of New York City detectives and their federal counterparts, along with Queens prosecutors and Hungarian customs officials, shut down the unlawful enterprise of stealing high-end motorcycles off the streets of New York and selling them on the streets of Budapest for a healthy and illegal profit."

ICE Special Agent-in-Charge Ficke said, "With today's arrests, we dismantled a criminal enterprise that targeted a vulnerability which could have threatened the security of our ports and our country. The pipelines that were used by the defendants to illegally transport motorcycles, could have been used to transport money, weapons or terrorists. The security of our nation is our number one priority and ICE will continue to partner with other law enforcement agencies to that end."

FBI Assistant Director-in-Charge Mershon said, "This case is a terrific example of the strength of our law enforcement partnerships in New York. This criminal enterprise had an overseas nexus, but, as this multi-agency operation shows, the long arm of the law has a pretty far reach."

The defendants have been variously charged with Enterprise Corruption, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third and Fourth Degrees, Forgery of Vehicle Identification Number, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the First Degree for Cocaine, Grand Larceny in the Third and Fourth Degrees and Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree. The defendants charged with Enterprise Corruption

face up to 25 years in prison if convicted. They include the Hungarian Exporter, brokers, taggers and steal men. Others face up to seven years in prison if convicted.

The charges are the result of an 11-month joint undercover investigation by the New York City Police Department's Organized Crime Control Bureau Auto Crime Division, the Queens District Attorney's Organized Crime and Rackets Bureau, the New York State Insurance Department's Insurance Frauds Bureau, the State Department of Motor Vehicles and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The investigation began in June 2005 when New York law enforcement officials enlisted a Homeland Security Special Agent stationed in Vienna, Austria, to assist in an investigation into the theft of motorcycles occurring in New York and being shipped to Hungary.

It is alleged that the defendants and others were members and associates of a "Motorcycle Theft and Export Ring," an organized criminal enterprise based in Queens County that illicitly operated in the New York metropolitan area and burglarized homes and stole motorcycles from their owners throughout New York City and Long Island.

It is further alleged that seven of the defendants – Armando Soriano Hernandez, DeShawn King, Tony Outlaw, Harold Bauza, Miguel Amay, and Alejandro Caravjal – were employed by the ring as "stealers" who located, stole and transported numerous motorcycles to a "broker" located at a garage at 52-17 69<sup>th</sup> Street in Maspeth, Queens. At the garage, the "broker/tagger" – defendant Josue Carantini – would allegedly take the motorcycles and at the stealers' direction, alter the stolen motorcycles to make them undetectable by law enforcement. The defendant Carantini allegedly accomplished this by sometimes replacing the vehicle identification number ("VIN") or by replacing the frame of the stolen bike with the frame of another bike.

It is additionally alleged that the defendant Attila Lengyel acted as the "exporter" by purchasing the altered motorcycles from the thieves and shipping them out of the United States to his business partner in Hungary, where the stolen motorcycles were then re-sold out of Lengyel's own motorcycle shop.

The investigation was conducted by:

- The New York City Police Department: Detectives Jeffrey Quod, Teddy LePage, Michael McMahon and Kenneth Destefano of the NYPD Auto Crime Division under the supervision of Sergeant James O'Brien and Lieutenant Gene Borelli and the overall supervision of Deputy Inspector Howard Lawrence and Organized Crime Control Chief Anthony Izzo.

- The Department of Homeland Security Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE): Senior Special Agent Rod Khattabi, Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge Christopher Ammirati and Deputy Special Agent-in-Charge Salvatore Dalessandro under the supervision of Special Agent-in-Charge Martin D. Ficke in New York City and Senior Special Agent Peter Liston and ICE Attache Kenneth McDonald at the American Embassy in Vienna, Austria, all under the overall supervision of ICE Assistant Director Michael Vanacore, in Washington, D.C.; and

- The Federal Bureau of Investigation: FBI Special Agent Cheryll Leppert, Acting Supervisory Special Agent Catherine Pena and Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge Donald J. Ackerman under the supervision of Special Agent-in-Charge Andrew G. Arena, with the assistance of Ed Carlson of the National Insurance Crime Bureau, under the supervision of Thomas Lohmann.

The cases are being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Peri Alyse Kadanoff, Deputy Bureau Chief, and Christine M. Maloney of the District Attorney's Organized Crime and Rackets Bureau under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Gerard A. Brave, Chief, and Marc P. Resnick, Deputy Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

It should be noted that indictments and criminal complaints are merely accusations and that defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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**NOTE: SEE DEFENDANT ADDENDUM ON FOLLOWING PAGE**

**DEFENDANT INFORMATION:**

**“ALLEGED EXPORTER”**

1. Atilla Lengyel (a/k/a “AJ”), 45, of 9-34 120<sup>th</sup> Street in College Point, Queens, was charged with Enterprise Corruption, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree and Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree.

**“ALLEGED TAGGER/BROKER”**

1. Josue Caratini, 31, of 48-32 37<sup>th</sup> Street in Long Island City, Queens, was charged with Enterprise Corruption Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third and Fourth Degrees, Forgery of a Vehicle Identification Number, Criminal Mischief in the Third Degree and Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree.

**“ALLEGED STEAL MEN”**

1. Miguel Amay, 36, of 391 Lorimen Street in Brooklyn, was charged with Enterprise Corruption, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree and Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree.

2. Irving Barriero (a/k/a “Barraco”), 26, of 37-33 101<sup>st</sup> Street in Corona, Queens was charged with Burglary in the Third Degree, Grand Larceny in the Third and Fourth Degrees, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third and Fourth Degrees, Illegal Possession of a VIN, and Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree.

3. Harold Bauza, 31, of Brooklyn, was charged with Enterprise Corruption, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third and Fourth Degrees and Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree.

4. Alejandro Carvajal (a/k/a “Alex”) Granados, 31, of 37-16 65<sup>th</sup> Street in CITY, Queens, was charged with Enterprise Corruption, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree and Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree.

5. Gelpy Delacruz (a/k/a “Tony”), 29, of 43-11 220 Place in Bayside, Queens, was charged with Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third and Fourth Degrees.

6. Danny Delarossa, 25, of 33-38 102 Street, Jackson Heights, Queens, was charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the First and Third Degrees, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree and Illegal Possession of a VIN.

7. Rafael Diaz, 39, of 119-58 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Flushing, Queens - Previously Arrested

8. Nikoloaos Fotopoulos, 24, of 28-15 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Astoria, Queens, was charged with Insurance Fraud in the Third Degree, Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree and Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree.

9. Anibal Guzman, 29, of 1333 Hancock Street in Brooklyn, was charged with Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree.

10. Pedro Jiminez, 21 of 38-09 99<sup>th</sup> Street in Corona, Queens, was charged with Criminal Mischief in the Third Degree, Attempted Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree and Possession of Burglar’s Tools.

11. Deshawn (a/k/a “Shawn”) King, 35, of 611 Blake Avenue in Brooklyn, was charged with Enterprise Corruption, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third and Fourth Degrees and Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree.

12. Rocco Macri, 39, of 91 Cherry Drive West in Plainview, Long Island, was charged with Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree, Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree and Vehicle Dismantling.

13. Nelson (a/k/a “Montegra”) Montesino, 37 of 549 Isham Street in Manhattan, was charged with Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree.

14. Tony (a/k/a “Kurt”) Outlaw, 33, of 130 Humber Street in Brooklyn, was charged with Enterprise Corruption, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree and Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree.

15. Carlos Payamps, 26, of 39-28 101<sup>st</sup> Street in Corona, Queens, was charged with Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third and Fourth Degrees, Illegal Possession of a VIN and Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree.

16. Julio Salsedo-Contreras, 23, of 40-13 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Long Island City, Queens, was charged with Burglary in the Third Degree, Grand Larceny in the Third and Fourth Degrees, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree, and Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree.

17. Armando Soriano (a/k/a “Way”) Hernandez, 31, of 1019 Bedford Ave in Brooklyn, was charged with Enterprise Corruption, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree and Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree.

**E-version of press release posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org)**